

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY ARA/PPC:NSSMITH
APPROVED BY P:DTICE
ARA/ECA:FRONDON
ARA/AND:MRBARNEBEY
ARA:FJMCNEIL

-----072316 211155Z /47

P 210304Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 128301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (NEWSOM, DAVID)

SUBJECT: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S VISIT

1. ON MONDAY, MAY 22, AT THE END OF THE NOON BRIEFING, THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN WILL VOLUNTEER THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT CONCERNING THE UNDER SECRETARY'S TRIP. QUOTE: UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS DAVID D. NEWSOM LEFT WASHINGTON YESTERDAY TO MAKE BRIEF ORIENTATION VISITS TO THREE SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. LATIN AMERICA IS THE ONE MAJOR AREA OF THE WORLD IN WHICH HE HAS NOT SERVED. HE WILL BE IN BOGOTA TODAY AND TOMORROW; IN BUENOS AIRES MAY 23-25, AND LA PAZ MAY 25-26. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THREE COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS. END QUOTE

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2. IN ADDITION WE HAVE PREPARED THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY GUIDANCE TO BE USED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN IF ASKED (NOTE FIRST Q AND A IS ALMOST IDENTICAL TO ANNOUNCEMENT IN EVENT HE IS QUESTIONED BEFORE ANNOUNCEMENT MADE). QUOTE:

Q. IS UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM GOING TO LATIN AMERICA?

A. YES. NEWSOM WILL MAKE BRIEF VISITS TO THREE SOUTH

AMERICAN COUNTRIES NEXT WEEK. HE WILL LEAVE WASHINGTON SUNDAY, MAY 21, WILL BE IN BOGOTA MAY 21-23, BUENOS AIRES MAY 23-25, AND LA PAZ MAY 25-26, RETURNING TO WASHINGTON MAY 27. THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH THREE COUNTRIES WHERE WE HAVE IMPORTANT INTERESTS. LATIN AMERICA IS THE ONE MAJOR AREA OF THE WORLD WHERE MR. NEWSOM HAS NOT SERVED.

Q. WHAT ARE THESE INTERESTS?

A. THE UNITED STATES HAS A WIDE RANGE OF INTERESTS IN THESE COUNTRIES INCLUDING HEMISPHERIC AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON SUCH MATTERS AS HUMAN RIGHTS, NON-PROLIFERATION, TRADE, NARCOTICS AND ARMS TRANSFERS.

Q. WHAT ARE THE TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED IN EACH OF THE COUNTRIES?

A. WHILE I CANNOT GO INTO THE SPECIFIC AGENDA FOR EACH STOP, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT MR. NEWSOM WILL BE ORIENTING HIMSELF TO THE VIEWS AND PROBLEMS OF THE AREA AND WILL DISCUSS A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WHICH MAY INTEREST BOTH SIDES, INCLUDING WORLD ISSUES OF CURRENT CONCERN AS WELL AS BILATERAL MATTERS.

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Q. WILL NEWSOM DISCUSS HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA?

A. THE ADVANCEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN OUR HEMISPHERE WILL BE AMONG THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED IN ALL THREE COUNTRIES.

Q. IS ANYONE GOING WITH NEWSOM?

A. AN OFFICER FROM THE BUREAU OF INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS WILL ACCOMPANY HIM IN EACH COUNTRY. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FRANCIS J. MCNEIL WILL GO WITH HIM TO COLOMBIA, AND EAST COAST AFFAIRS DEPUTY DIRECTOR FERNANDO RONDON WILL BE WITH HIM IN ARGENTINA AND BOLIVIA.

Q. WILL HE BE DISCUSSING NARCOTICS WITH COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS?

A. HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FOREIGN OFFICIALS WILL DEAL WITH MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN EACH COUNTRY.

Q. WHY DID HE PICK THESE THREE COUNTRIES?

A. HE CHOSE COUNTRIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS OF THE

CONTINENT WHICH COULD BE VISITED IN THE ONE WEEK AVAILABLE TO HIM.

END QUOTE

3. WE WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT POSTS NOT DRAW ON THE ABOVE UNTIL THE ANNOUNCEMENT IS MADE HERE ON MONDAY. IF THIS CAUSES SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR YOU OR HOST GOVERNMENTS, PLEASE ADVISE IMMEDIATELY.

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